

15 JULY 00

MATS ISSUES AND  
DISCUSSION

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# Topics

- MATS I Version 4.4
- MATS/TSAMS-E
- ALL TADSS ON MATS I SYSTEMS
- MATS I and the CLS
- The MATS WEB Page
- MATS II ADAMS Reports Availability
- JANUS 2020 Scanner Issues

# MATS I version 4.4

- Fielding planned for July 00.
- Fielding will be electronically via e-mail.
- The installation program will upgrade from versions 4.01 or 4.03 ONLY. Versions older than 4.02(Y2K) are not Y2K compliant and will not be supported. The release also support initial installation of MATS I at sites.

## **Changes and Enhancements**

- FDCC – When issuing pre-configured end-items the program has the option of printing a single line for quantity of items, or a line for each item.

# MATS I version 4.4 (cont.)

- FDCC - Issue and Turn-in capabilities from the keyboard returned to selection “B” in the Management Module
- User Requested – Totals by part number have been added to the return receipt using the same logic and format as the original receipt.
- User Requested/CA – Transaction numbers have been added to inventory actions, Issues, turn-ins, receipts, and transactions. Previous versions had transaction numbers for issues only.

# MATS I version 4.4 (cont.)

- CA – A workload data collection and retrieval capability has been added to support CA analysis requirements.
- User Requested – A history and retrieval capability of has been added to the MATS I.
- MATS Mgr – Summary data collection for MATS II input has been expanded to include workload data.
- MATS Mgr - The capability of producing reports in ASCII format, for electronic transmission, has been added to modified system outputs.

# MATS I version 4.4 (cont.)

- MATS Mgr – Version 4.4 contains the advanced database structures to support full network operations at multiple sites. Upon beta testing and fielding 4.4 work will resume on version 5.0. 5.0 will contain ONLY those enhancements for the network environment.
- Fort Richardson – The capability of converting specific serial number to quantity tracking without operational

# MATS/TSAMS-E - Background

- In the summer of 1999 the ATSC commander contracted Digicon corp. for a Front End Analysis (FEA) of the MATS/TSAMS-E systems. The purpose of the FEA was to answer the following questions.
  1. Does either MATS or TSAMS-E meet Army Training Information Technical Architecture (ATTA). The ATTA has since been renamed to Army Training Information Architecture (ATIA)
  2. Should the functionality of the two systems be merged?

# MATS/TSAMS-E - Background (cont.)

The findings were that neither the MATS or TSAMS-E ATIA interoperability requirements and would have to be re-engineered. In addition, on 25 Oct. 99 the ATSC command made the decision that the functionality of the two systems be combined into a single re-engineered system that meet the requirements and contained all the functionality of the MATS I, II, and TSAMS-E systems. However, to date no funding has been identified for this effort in FY 00, or 01.



# MATS/TSAMS-E - Status

The FEA estimated a 32 man-month effort for accomplishing the re-engineering effort at a cost of 327K. Mr. Crawford, ATIC-TMSM-V, submitted an updated estimate of 464K for re-engineering.

# MATS/TSAMS-E - Reality

- If resources were received today we are about three years from a re-engineered system being fielded armywide.

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• To my knowledge there has been no change in ODCS4's policy to use TSAMS-E for work order management and VI e

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# ALL TADSS ON MATS

## The Problem

- In CY 99 upgraded scanner equipment and software provided to the Training community to expand the MATS sites to include ALL TADSS.
- On 1 Oct 99 the ADAMS ceased to exist. This was a joint effort that the training community was aware of.
- A comparison of the last produced ADAMS and the current MATS II ADAMS reports reveals that 37.1 % TADSS are being reported. We MUST do a lot better to support the training community and the army as a

# ALL TADSS ON MATS

## The Solutions

Long Term - Install the MATS I at all TADSS issue sites. This is the ultimate objective for which hardware and software have been provided. It provides full usage, inventory, and workload Data collection capabilities. However it also requires significant Time and effort at the larger sites. As we start the summer Period this may not be possible at all sites. In addition a Number of the non-MILES sites require assistance, initial training.

# ALL TADSS ON MATS

## The Solutions (cont.)

Short Term - Add ALL TADSS to the MILES MATS I systems at the DVC level. This solution will not provide full MATS

Data collection, but will restore all the capabilities of ADAMS

Until MATS I is installed at the non-MILES sites.

Advantages to this solution include.

1. The required assets, (menu boards, DVC/Parts tables, label making capabilities), have already been provided

# MATS I and the CLS

It has been said that the MATS I can not be used with the CLS contract. This is not true. However, due to the CLS contract permitting “like item replacement” without identifying what is replacing what, a change in procedures is required at some point. These changes apply to serial number tracked items ONLY.

- Serial numbered items require “transferring” to the CLS contract “issuing”.
- “Like items” received from the CLS contractor must be entered into the MATS I as “new receipts”.

This does add to the work at the MATS I sites, but that is the nature of the contract.

# MATS I and the CLS (cont.)

Because of the terms of the new CLS contract some sites have, or plan to, convert some or all items from serial number to quantity

Tracking. Because of this an urgent capability was programmed into version 4.03M and 4.4. This capability enables sites to make the conversion for specified items with little or no impact on operations.

# The MATS I WEB Page

The MATS I home page has not been updated in some time due to a shortage of funds to support the contractor effort. This problem has been solved with the assignment of Maj. Hale as the new WEB site Manager.



# MATS II ADAMS reports availability

The capability of producing ADAMS reports by device or  
has been added to the MATS II software on the ATSCNET and  
ATSC MATS II systems. The objective is to provide access to  
MACOMS and TSCs from their locations. However security  
requirements and policies prevent this at this time. The  
software provides for the output of the reports in display, hard-copy  
Text format. For now we can create requested reports in  
ASCII and send them electronically via email. The reports are  
8.5 X 11 inch paper and can be viewed or printed by any  
Windows Processor or text editor.

# Janus 2020 Scanner Issues

- Read errors – Recent reports from the field indicate that Janus 2020 Scanners are more prone to bar code read errors than the Janus 9440 Readers used with the Intermec 9440 units. This is a recent issue that has occurred over a couple of months, development and is being researched and solutions.
- Programming in a Windows NT environment – Loading the MATS I scanner software to the 2020s has been a problem at several sites. Once the scanners are loaded with the software the Janus 2020 Data upload software performs as designed. This problem appears to be of the IRL software design and Windows NT requiring a specific IRL Driver for the docking station.

# Janus 2020 Scanner Issues (cont.)

- Programming in a Windows NT environment (cont.) – most common solutions are listed below.
1. Boot the computer using dual boot capabilities of NT DOS mode.
  2. Load the scanners using a PCMCIA SRAM card vice the docking station.
  3. If a Windows 95/98 system is available use it to program the scanners. This is an infrequent operation and should have minimum impact.